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## COUNCIL ON WAGE AND PRICE STABILITY

The voluntary wage and price standards of the anti-inflation program have been published for comment (see the 11/7/78 Fed. Reg., pp.51938-54). These proposed standards may now be used for public guidance and by the Council as well as other government agencies. Comments on the proposals may be submitted by 12/2/78. The published proposals include the Administration's White Paper which discusses the background of the program and contains a synopsis of the standards, answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the standards, and examples of methods of calculating rates of wage and price changes. For more information contact Peter Lowry at 202/456-6570.

## ENERGY, DEPARTMENT OF

Data collected in thirteen DOE forms will undergo review to determine its usefulness. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) announced the requirements review in the 11/3/78 Fed. Reg., pp.51497-98. The review will survey the data collected from various energy producing and utility companies to determine if a reduction in reporting can be made. Comments on this proposed requirements review are due by 12/4/78. Further information can be obtained from the Regulatory Systems Development Division of the EIA at 202/275-4910.

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Final regulations on financial reports by cable and television companies have been published in the 11/7/78 Fed. Reg., pp.51791-805. Changes in these regulations include such features as the disclosure of accounting policies for several critical accounts, a reduced filing burden on small cable operators, changes in the income statement schedule, elimination of current schedule 4, and expanded explanations in instructions and clarified accounting definitions. The rules are effective as of 11/7/78. For further information contact R. C. Earnest at 202/632-9797.

## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

The Line of Business reporting form has been upheld by the Supreme Court. The high court declined three separate petitions filed by corporations to review a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia which held that the Commission could employ both the Line of Business Reports and the Corporate Patterns Survey Report. Under the Line of Business program, the 500 largest manufacturers must supply sales and profit data broken down into 260 industrial categories. The Corporate Patterns Survey Report will require almost 1,000 manufacturers to estimate the value of domestic plant shipments. Both programs had been suspended pending these latest appeals and it is expected that the Commission will now move quickly to implement the programs.

## LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Pension plans maintained by the Federal government will be subject to the annual reporting requirements of ERISA and the GAO will be required to conduct an audit of each of the approximately 12 plans. The President signed the legislation (H.R.9701) last week which can pave the way toward additional requirements over other public pension plans.

In that regard, the AICPA's Employee Benefit Plan and ERISA Committee will testify before the House Pension Task Force on 11/15/78 concerning H.R. 14138, the "Public Employee Retirement Security Act of 1978" which would extend to public employee plans many of the features contained in ERISA and levied on private plans.

#### OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

The fourth draft segment of the Federal Acquisition Regulation has been made available for comment (see the 11/3/78 Fed. Reg., pp.51432-33). This segment covers bonds and insurance and states the general policy that the government does not insure its own property and risks with certain specified exceptions. Other policies discussed include the requirement for notice of cancellation or change when insurance is required, a discussion of insurance against loss or damage to government property, and risk-pooling arrangements. Copies of the draft regulation, designed to be single uniform acquisition regulation for use by all Federal agencies, may be obtained from, and comments submitted to William Thybony at 395-3300.

Proposed procurement regulations aimed at implementing the anti-inflation program have been published in the 11/8/78 Fed. Reg., pp.52032-33. The proposals will insure that the Federal government buys goods and service from companies which comply with the wage and price standards outlined by the President on 10/24/78. The main features of the proposals include a requirement that contractors certify compliance with the program, contract eligibility determinations to be issued by the COWPS, penalties for erroneous certification, which can include termination or default, and waivers of the regulations in limited situations if determined by the agency administrator. The deadline for comments on these proposals is 12/7/78. For more information contact Leroy Haugh at 202/395-6166.

The paperwork load on the public has been cut by 12.3 percent or almost 110 million hours since 1/31/77, according to a report issued by OMB. The quarterly summary sent to the President and Congress notes that over 400 recurring reports have been eliminated in large measure as a result of implementation of many recommendations made by the Commission on Federal Paperwork. Almost one-third of the Commission's 520 recommendations have now been adopted throughout the Executive Branch. More information on the report is available at 202/395-4747.

#### PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

The maximum pension guaranty for 1979 has been announced by the Corporation. The maximum monthly benefit that will be guaranteed for plans terminating during 1979 will be \$1,073.86. ERISA requires that the maximum be adjusted each year in accordance with Social Security contributions and benefit base.

#### SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

A Small Business Conference Commission has been announced by the White House (see Executive Order 12091, published in the 11/3/78 Fed. Reg., p.51373). The Commission, which have 11 members, will be responsible for conducting regional and local meetings or conferences that will lead to the White House Conference on Small Business, scheduled for early 1980. The Commission will review the specific issues addressed at these meetings and will solicit candidates for conference delegates.

TREASURY, DEPARTMENT OF

The President signed the tax cut bill last Monday ; PL 95-600; he also signed into law the bill affecting foreign income earned by Americans working abroad; PL 95-615. Little publicity accompanied the signing of either measure although both bills include significant changes in the Code.

In the case of foreign income measure, starting with the current tax year, a new set of deductions tied to various costs of living abroad come into play. Without giving up the right to use the zero-bracket amount, or what used to be called the standard deduction, overseas taxpayers will be able to take deductions based on their individual expenses for housing, schooling, and annual trip home. Also, they will get a separate deduction based on tables designed to reflect how much the cost of living at the overseas location exceeds that in the U.S. city with the highest level, currently, New York City.

As for the \$18.7 tax cut bill, most middle income taxpayers won't realize any appreciable gain in income because of the substantial increase in their Social Security taxes.

Final regulations on the treatment of gain from the sale or exchange of depreciable property between related taxpayers appeared in the 11/3/78 Fed. Reg., pp.51387-88. These rules are effective for sales or exchanges after 10/4/76 and implement changes made by the Tax Reform Act of 1976. For more information contact Leonard Marchinko at 202/577-3459.

A list of taxpayer concerns and effective dates of the provisions in the Revenue Act of 1978 that relate to Individual Retirement Plans (IRAs) has been published. The list was compiled by Rep. Sam Gibbons (D-Fla), chairman of the Ways and Means Oversight subcommittee. It contains a brief description of various actions that taxpayers must take by 12/31/78 and 4/15/79 in order to take advantage of the provisions of the new tax law that effect IRAs.

Anyone wishing to receive one free copy of the IRA checklist may obtain it by calling the Washington Office at 202/872-8190 extension 47 prior to 11/15/78 and requesting Document 38-1.

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